SURAH OF AT-TIN

THE RESEARCH:
SURAH OF
AT-TIN

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THE CONTENT

- THE REFERENCES
- THE BACKGROUND
  - ✓ Its Name
  - ✓ Revelation Period
  - ✓ Historical Context
  - ✓ Main Themes
  - ✓ Key Lessons
  - ✓ THE AYAT IN DETAILS
- THE EXERCISES

THE REFERENCES

1) https://iqra-quran.com/chapters-of-quran/95-at-tin/

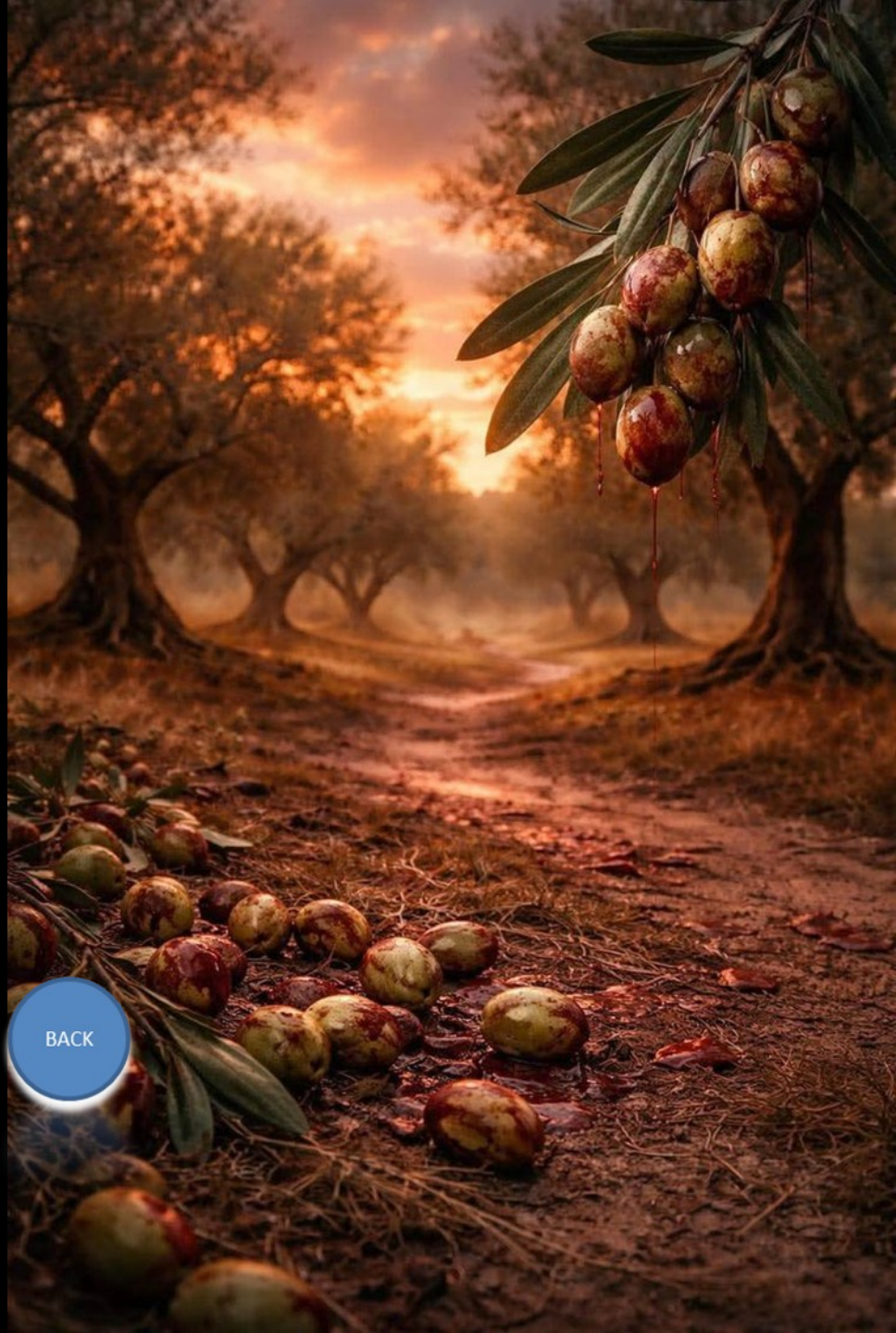
2) https://quran.com/at-tin

BACK

THE BACKGROUND 1

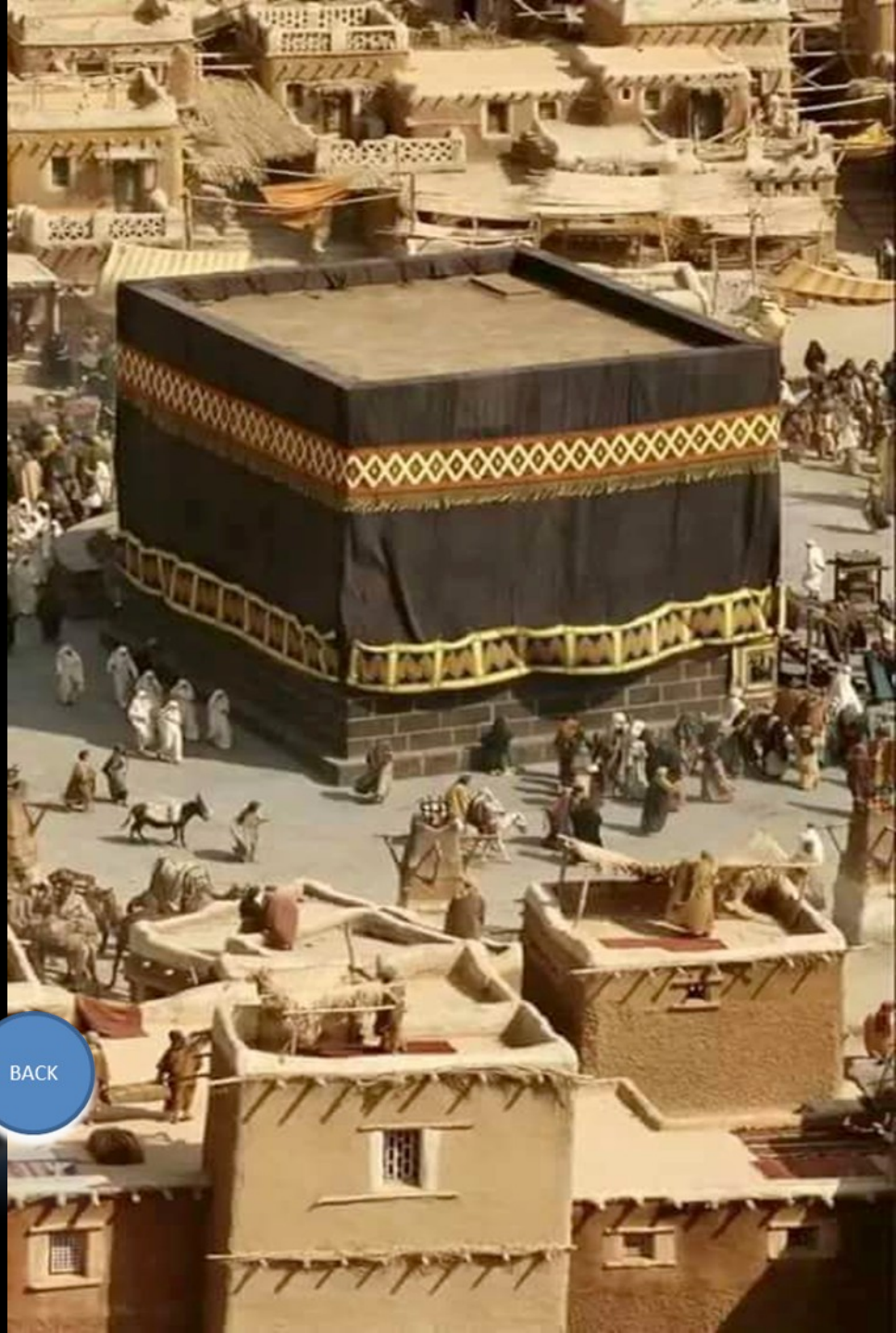
Its Name

- Surah Name: At-Tin (سـورة الـتين)
- Translation: The Fig
- Origin of name: The surah is named after the word "tīn" (fig) mentioned in the first verse.



Revelation Period

- Makki or Madani: Makki
- Approximate Time of Revelation: During the Makkan period, after Surah Al-Buruj.



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Historical Context

- Surah At-Tin was revealed during the Makkah period after Surah Al-Burooj. At this time, the Prophet and his followers were facing strong opposition and denial from the Quraysh tribe, who resisted the message of Islam. The society of Makkah was steeped in idol worship, tribal pride, and materialism, and efforts to promote monotheism were met with ridicule and resistance.

- Although there is no direct account or specific incident mentioned as the reason for its revelation, commentators note that this surah aligns with the thematic responses to increasing denial and stubbornness of the Makkan disbelievers [1].

- By referencing sacred places tied to earlier revelations—such as Mount Sinai and the secure city of Makkah—the surah subtly connects Islam with earlier monotheistic traditions (Judaism and Christianity) [2]. This historical linkage reinforced that the Prophet’s message continued the same call toward the worship of one God. The surah also reminded its listeners of the noble status given to human beings and the possible consequences of turning away from that divine purpose.

- It is narrated that the Prophet (peace be upon him), who recited the Surah At-Tin during the night prayer, said: "Whoever recites the Surah 'Wa't-Tīn wa'z-zaytūn' and comes to the verse, which means 'Is not Allah the best of judges?', should say, 'Yes, He is, and I am one of those who are devoted to Him'. [3]

References:

[1] Al-Maturidi, Ta’wilat Ahl al-Sunnah, vol. 5, p. 485

[2] Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur’an al-‘Azim, vol. 14, p. 395

[3] Tirmidhi, Tafsir, 95

BACK

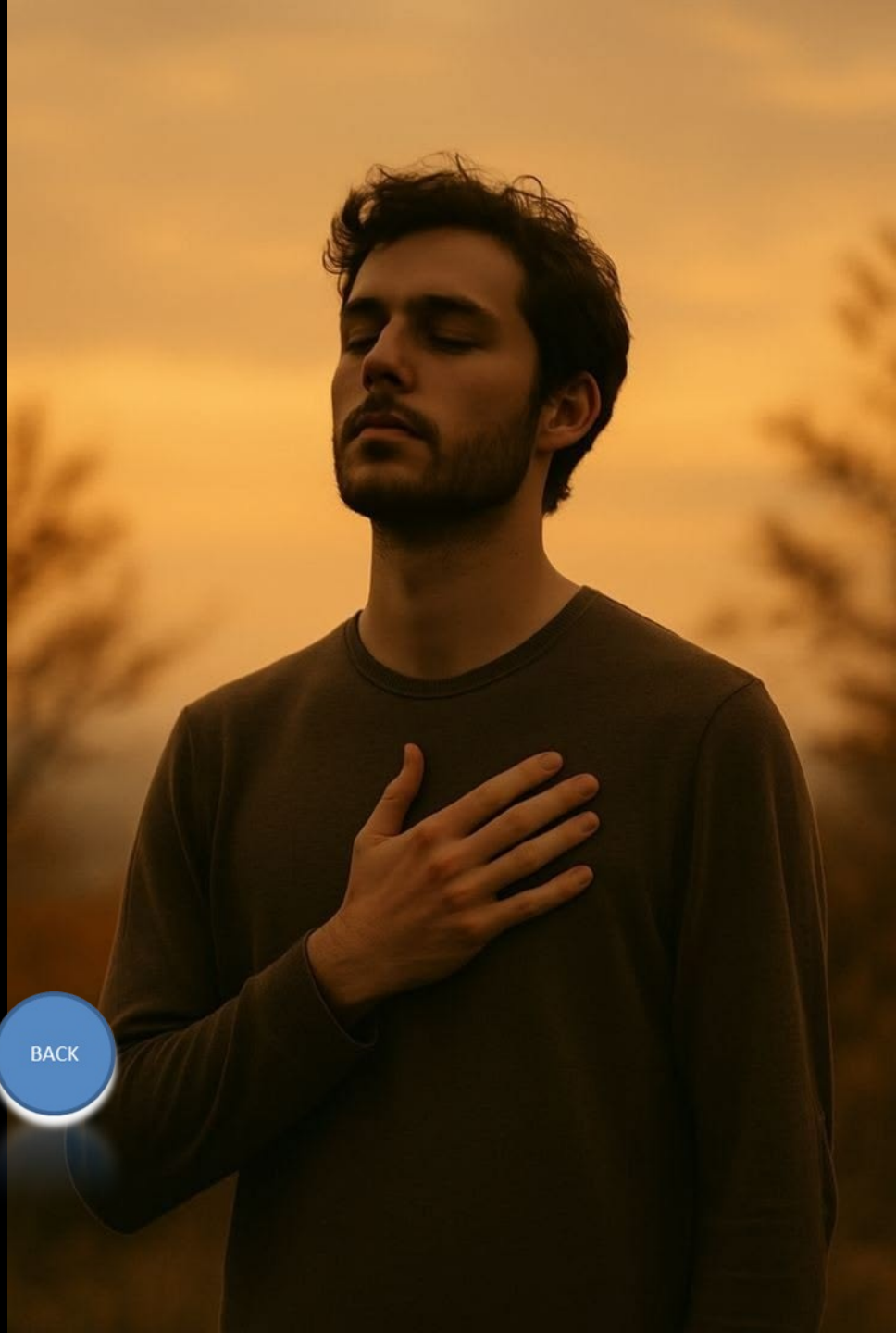
Main Themes

- Divine Oaths and Sacred Places:

The surah begins with oaths by the fig, the olive, Mount Sinai, and the secure city (Makkah). These oaths symbolize sacred locations tied to revelation—places connected to the teachings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It shows that all three faiths share the same foundation of belief in one God.

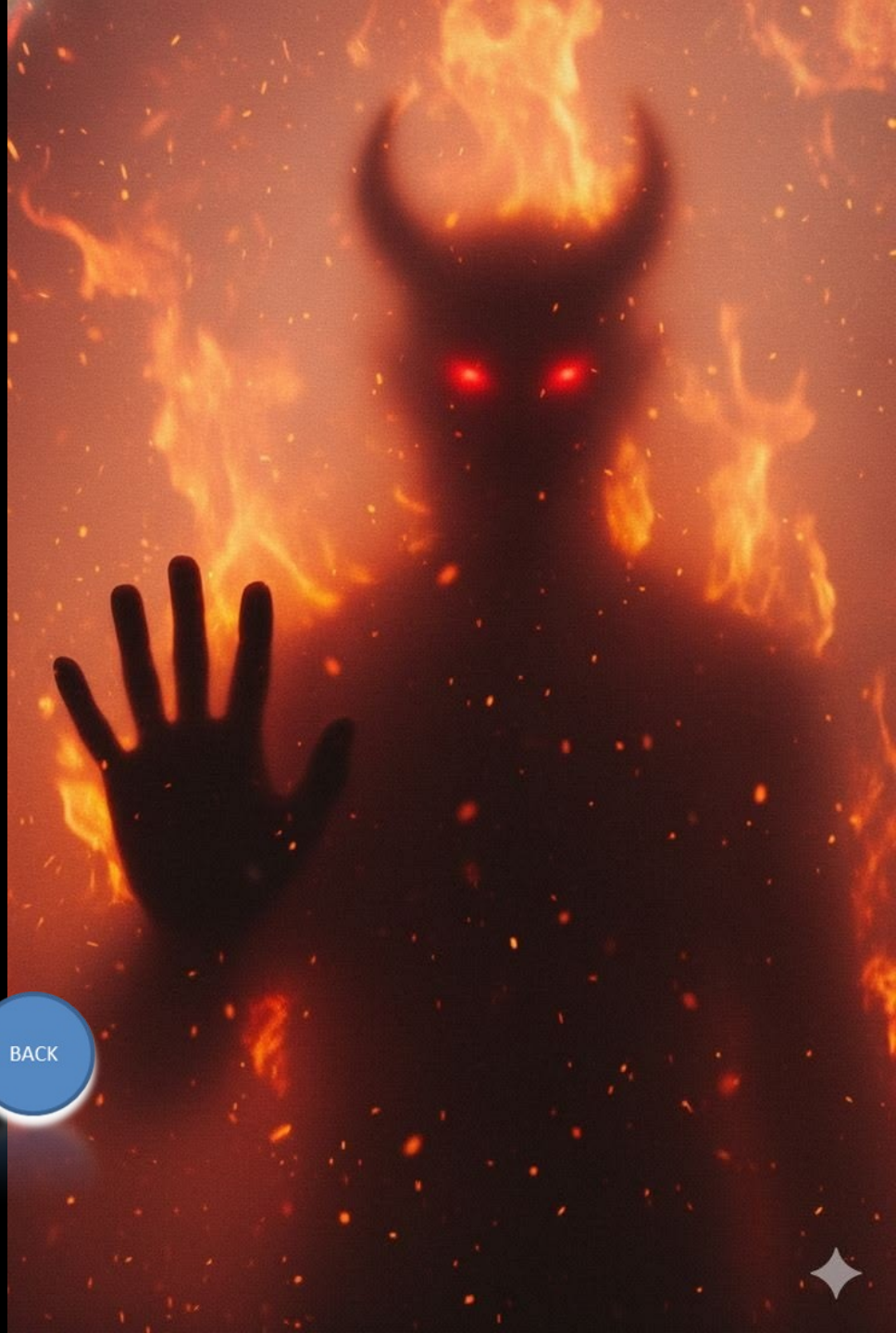
- The Honor of Human Creation:

Allah declares that He created humans in the best form—physically, mentally, and spiritually. This shows the unique status of humans compared to other creatures and highlights their potential for good.



- Fall from Dignity Through Disbelief:

Although humans are created in the best form, those who reject faith and live without righteousness fall to the lowest of the low except those who believe in Allah and do righteous actions. They will receive endless rewards.



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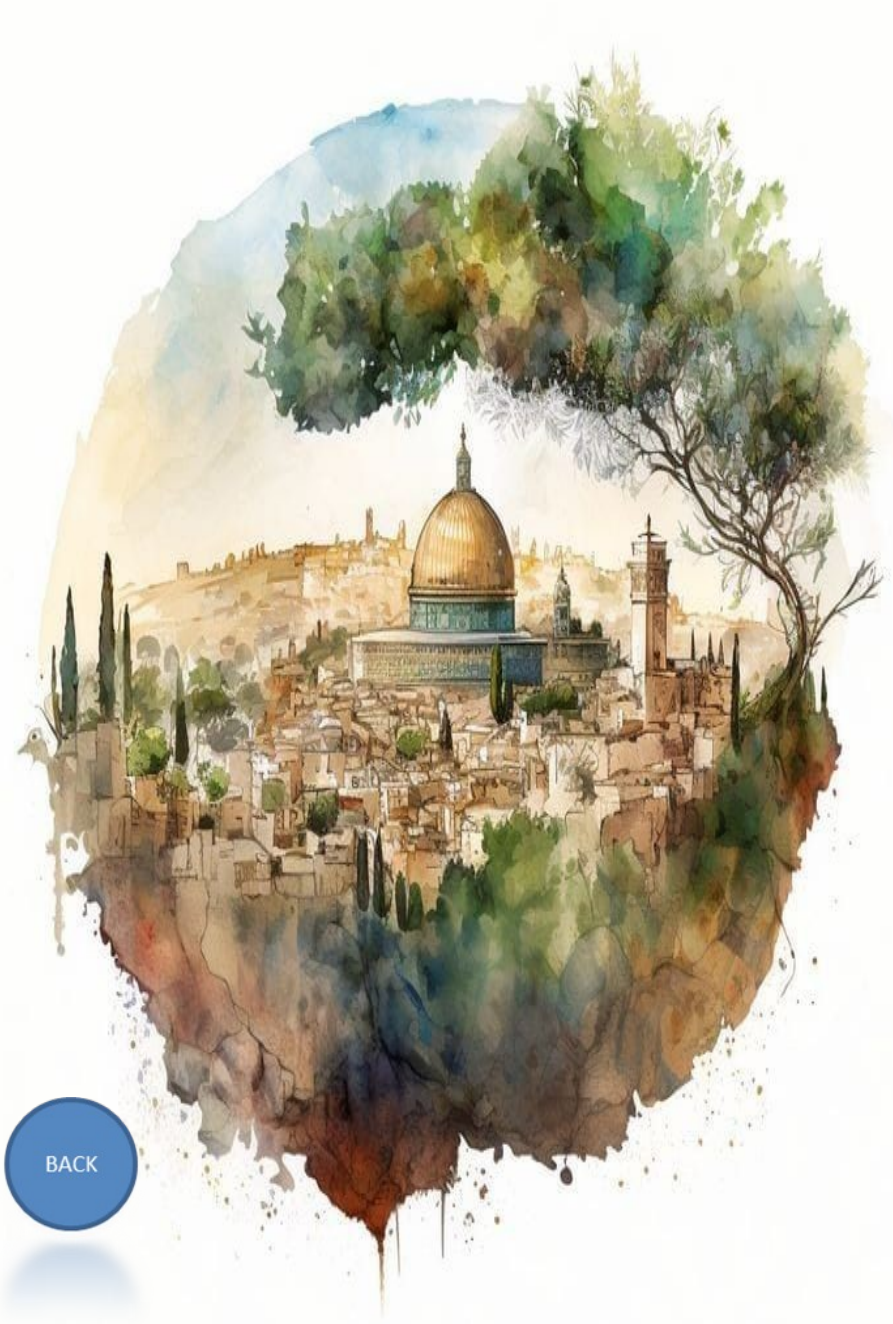
- God as the Supreme Judge:

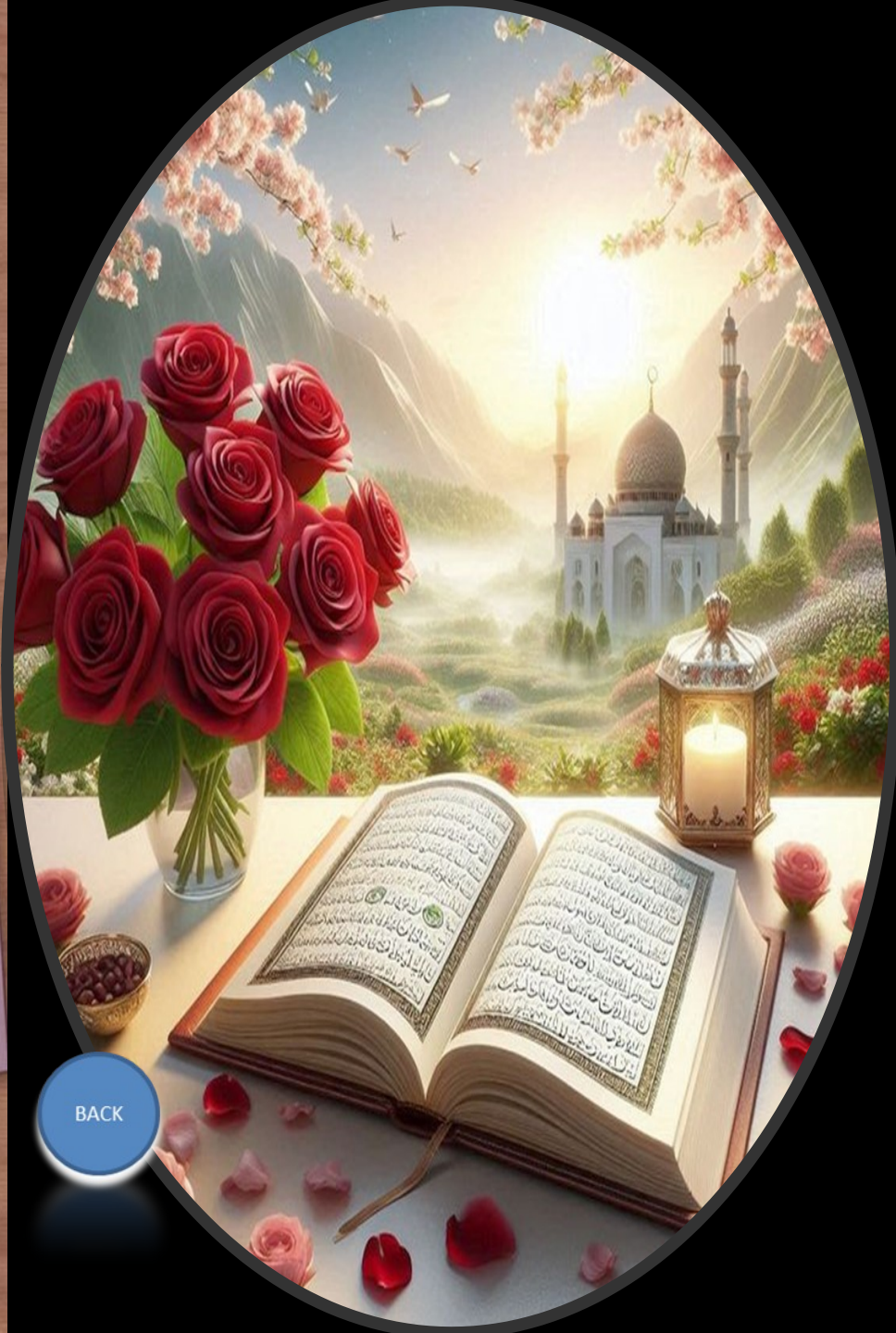
The surah ends with a powerful rhetorical question: “Is Allah not the best of judges?”—reminding people that ultimate justice lies only with Him.

Key Lessons

- Human beings are created in the best form, with body, mind, and heart.
- If people reject faith and do evil, they can fall to the lowest level.
- Those who believe and do good will have eternal reward.
- The origins of major religions are united in belief in one God.
- Allah is the most just judge, and everyone will be judged fairly in the afterlife.



THE AYAT IN DETAILS 2



وَٱلتِّينِ وَٱلزَّيْتُونِ ١

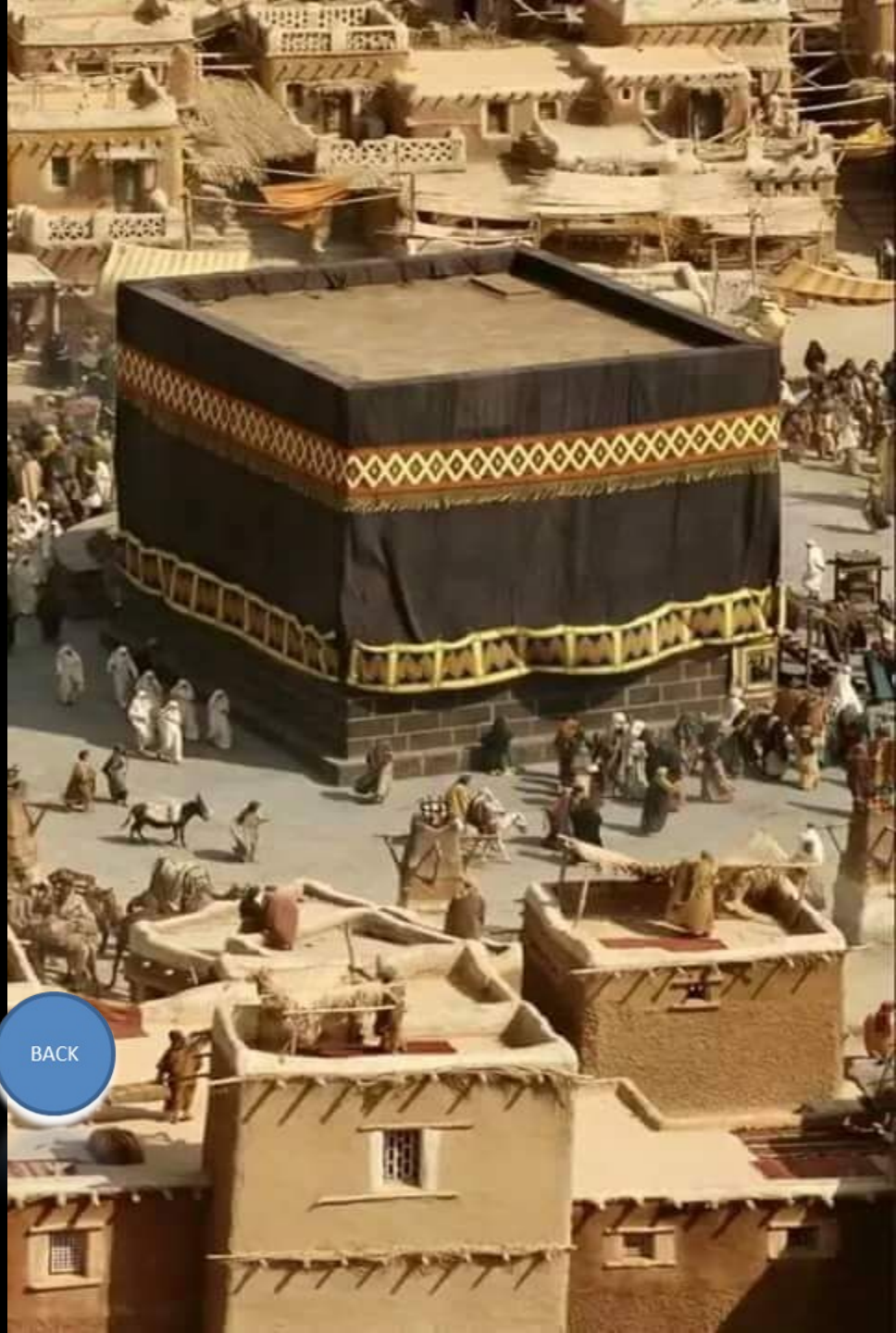
By the fig and the olive of Jerusalem,

وَطُورِ سِينِينَ ﴿٢﴾

and Mount Sinai,

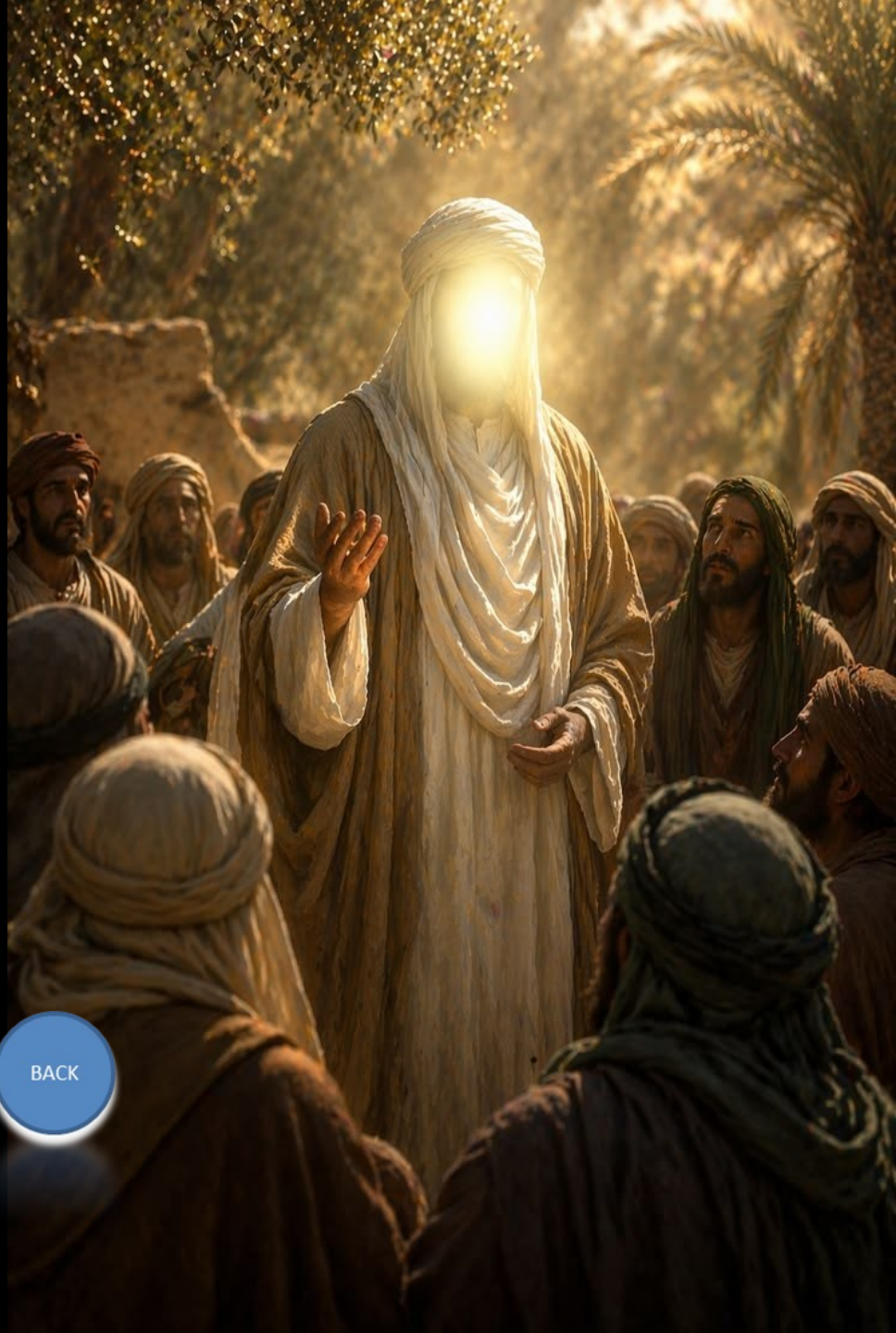
وَهَٰذَا ٱلْبَلَدِ ٱلْأَمِينِ ﴿٣﴾

and this secure city of Mecca!1



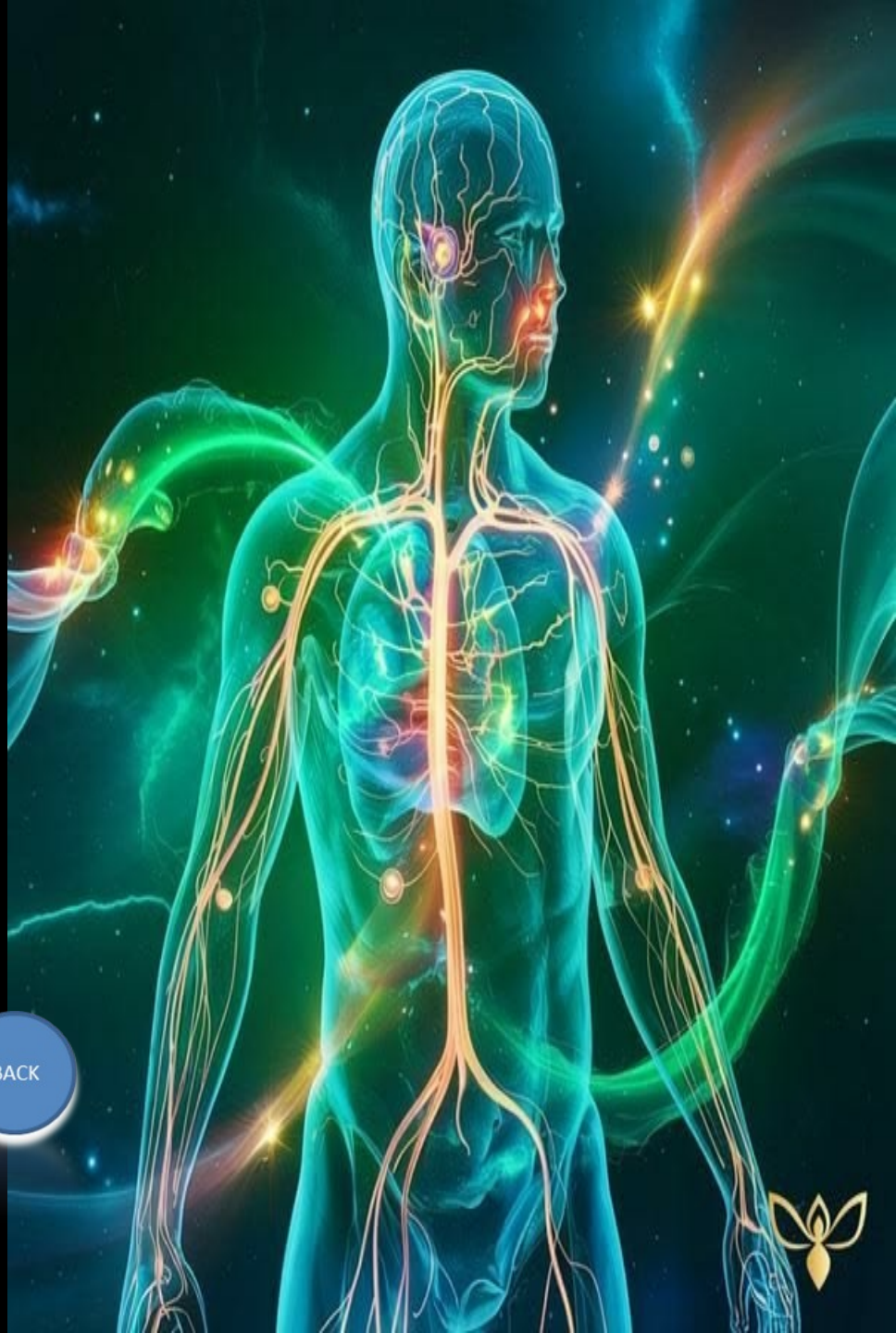
- Footnote - 1

This passage refers to the land of figs and olives where Jesus (□) lived, Mount Sinai where Moses (□) communicated with Allah, and the city of Mecca where the Prophet (□) started his mission. A similar reference can be found in Deuteronomy 33:1, □Moses proclaimed:□ “The Lord came from Sinai. Rising from Seir upon us, he [sic] shone forth from Mount Paran.” Seir is a mountain near Jerusalem, and Paran is a mountain near Mecca.



لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا ٱلْإِنسَٰنَ فِىٓ أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾

Indeed, We created humans in the best form.



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ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَٰهُ أَسْفَلَ سَٰفِلِينَ

But We will reduce them to the lowest of the low in Hell,

إِلَّا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا۟ وَعَمِلُوا۟ ٱلصَّٰلِحَٰتِ فَلَهُمْ أَجْرٌ غَيْرُ مَمْنُونٍ ۝٦

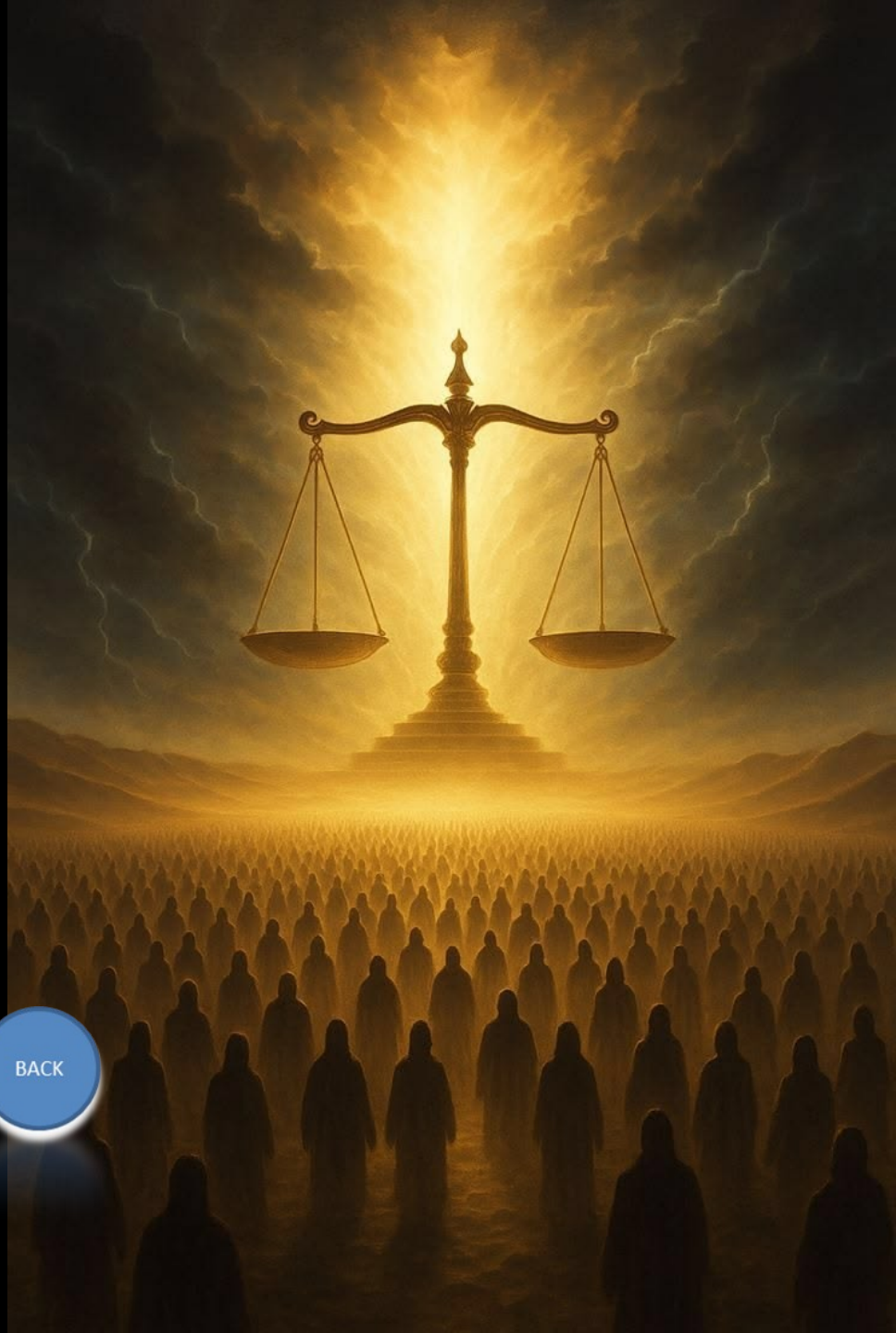
except those who believe and do good—they will have a never-ending reward.

فَمَا يُكَذِّبُكَ بَعْدُ بِالدِّينِ ٧

Now, what makes you deny the ﴿final﴾ Judgment?

أَلَيْسَ ٱللَّهُ بِأَحْكَمِ ٱلْحَٰكِمِينَ ﴿٨﴾

Is Allah not the most just of all judges?



BACK

EXCERCISES
BACK

1. Remembering (Recall)

1) What are the four things Allah swears by at the beginning of the surah?
2) What does Allah say about the creation of human beings?
3) What happens to some people after being created in the best form?
4) Who are excluded from being returned to the lowest state?
5) What reward is promised to those who believe and do righteous deeds?
6) What question does Allah ask near the end of the surah?
7) How does the surah conclude?

2. Understanding (Comprehension)

1) Why do you think Allah begins the surah with oaths?
2) What is meant by "We created man in the best form"?
3) What does "the lowest of the low" refer to?
4) Why are faith and righteous deeds mentioned together?
5) How does the surah show the dignity and value of human beings?
6) What message does the surah give about accountability?

3. Applying

1) How can a Muslim show gratitude for being created in the best form?
2) What actions can help a person avoid becoming "the lowest of the low"?
3) How can the teachings of this surah influence your daily choices?
4) How does belief in judgment encourage good behavior?
5) What lessons from this surah can help a person facing temptation?

4. Analyzing

1) What is the relationship between the opening oaths and the main message of the surah?
2) Compare the condition of believers with that of those who reject faith according to the surah.
3) How does the surah move from discussing creation to discussing judgment?
4) Why does the surah mention both the honor and the possible decline of human beings?
5) What evidence does the surah provide that judgment is reasonable and necessary?
6) How does the structure of the surah strengthen its message?

5. Evaluating

1) Why is belief alone not enough without righteous deeds according to the surah's message?
2) Which message of the surah do you think is most important for modern society? Why?
3) How convincing is the argument that humans will be judged for their actions?
4) Why is Allah's description as "the Most Just of judges" significant at the end of the surah?
5) Do you think the surah encourages optimism or caution more? Support your answer with evidence from the surah.

6. Creating (Higher-Order Thinking)

1) Create a diagram showing the progression of ideas in Surah At-Tin.
2) Write a short speech explaining the main lesson of the surah to younger students.
3) Design a poster illustrating the contrast between "the best form" and "the lowest of the low.“
4) Write three practical goals inspired by the surah that a Muslim could follow for one month.
5) Compose a reflection on how this surah strengthens belief in Allah's justice.
6) Create a mind map connecting the themes of creation, faith, righteous

Higher-Order Critical Thinking Questions

1) Why might Allah mention human excellence before mentioning human decline?
2) What would society look like if people ignored the message of this surah?
3) How does the surah balance hope and warning?
4) What can be inferred about human free will from the surah?
5) How does Surah At-Tin answer the question of why some people rise morally while others fall morally?

Higher-Order Critical Thinking Questions

6) In what ways does the surah encourage personal responsibility?

7) How does the surah connect a person's present actions with their future outcome?

8) What does the surah teach about the true measure of human worth?

9) How would you use the surah to respond to someone who doubts the existence of a Day of Judgment?

10) What is the central message that connects all the verses of Surah At-Tin? Explain your reasoning.

و الحمد لله رب العالمين